National goal of population policy

4842. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Population has recommended that two child per couple be declared as a national goal of population policy;

(b) whether some incentives and disincentives have also been suggested in this context and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government to the recommendations of the N.C.P.;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Population control sops spark rights row", which appeared in the Telegraph, dated the 17th April, 2002; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been circulated by the National Commission on Population.

National Commission on Population (NCP) as part of reviewing and monitoring the implementation of the NPP, 2000, suggested restrategising the policies and programmes relating to population stabilisation keeping in view the need to achieve the goals outlined in the NPP within the given time-frame.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The issues raised in the news item are parts of continuing dialogue on the strategies mentioned in the National Population Policy.

Strike by CGHS Chemists Association

4843. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS Chemists Association has gone on strike from 1st April, 2002 with the result dispensaries under the CGHS in Delhi are in a state of disarray as most of the medicines are not available therein;

(b) if so, the precise demands of the Chemists Association; and

(c) by when these are likely to be met and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi had gone on strike during 1.4.2002 to 12.4.2002. The strike was restricted to Delhi only. The chemists were protesting against (i) withholding of 10% of their bills submitted to the CGHS, and (ii) delayed payment of their bills by the CGHS. Ten per cent of the bill amount preferred by the chemists is being withheld by the CGHS in view of the matter relating to charging of sales tax by the chemists. These matters are now under reference to the C&AG. As regards delayed payment of bills, this was due to non-availability of funds with the CGHS during the close of the Financial Year 2001-2002. However, the payment against the local chemists have since been released and their bills are being cleared regularly.

During the strike period, to avoid any difficulties to the CGHS beneficiaries, they were allowed to purchase medicines from the open market and get reimbursement from the respective offices in the case of serving employees and from the CGHS in the case of pensioner beneficiaries.

Corruption in purchase of Unani medicines

4844. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding corruption in the purchase of Unani medicines in the CGHS Unani Store Depot, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter has since been investigated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A complaint from Dr. Abdul Qayyum, Medical Officer-in-charge, CGHS Unani Unit, Naraina Vihar, regarding corruption involved in purchase of Unani medicines during the tenure of Dr. M. Shammun's in-chargeship at Unani Store Depot' has been received. The matter was enquired into by CGHS, Delhi and report was conveyed to the Department of ISM&H. The status of the enquiry report in the Department of ISM&H is being ascertained.